

What Is Claimed Is

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1. A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information and jackpot win information; the accumulator comprising:

a real time clock;

and means responsive to jackpot-win information from the gaming machines and to said real time clock for tagging said jackpot-win information with a time and date.

2. A progressive accumulator in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:

means for storing said tagged jackpot-win information in a table.

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3. A progressive accumulator in accordance with claim 2 wherein:

said jackpot-win information includes the jackpot group;

and said table includes the jackpot value corresponding to each set of tagged jackpot-win information.

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2/3 wherein:

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said jackpot-win information includes the identification of the gaming machine at which the win occurred.

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5. A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in and jackpot-win information, the accumulator comprising:

first means responsive to jackpot information and coins-in information developed by the machines for developing progressive jackpot amounts for said jackpot groups; said first means including programming means and data storage means;

second means adapted to connect to an external device for allowing the external device to transmit messages to said first means for changing said first means, said messages including device identification and message type identification;

said first means in response to each of said messages storing the device identification and message type identification in said data storage means.

6. An accumulator in accordance with claim 5 wherein:
said first means fails to respond to messages for changing said first means unless the messages contain device identification.

7. An accumulator in accordance with claim 6 wherein:
certain of said messages are for changing jackpot data in said storage means and for changing the configuration of said programming means.

8. An accumulator in accordance with claim 5 wherein:
said device identification and message

identification are stored in table in said data storage means.

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9. A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive
jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines
have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values
are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines,
said gaming machines developing coins-in information and
jackpot-win information, said accumulator comprising:

means for receiving said coins-in information and
said jackpot-win information;

and means responsive to said receiving means for
establishing a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group
based upon the received coins-in information and jackpot-win
information allocated to that particular jackpot group, said
means for establishing including means capable of allocating the
coin-in information of a particular coin selectively to one or
more jackpot groups.

10. An accumulator in accordance with claim 9 wherein:

said means for establishing establishes a jackpot
value for each particular jackpot group by adding a base jackpot
amount to a further jackpot amount which is based upon the coins
indicated by the coins-in information allocated to the
particular jack-pot group.

11. An accumulator in accordance with claim 10

wherein:

said further jackpot amount is determined by adding an increment for each indicated coin.

12. An accumulator in accordance with claim 11

wherein:

said means for establishing determines from the coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group which of a plurality of increments is to be used for each indicated coin.

13. A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information, said accumulator comprising:

means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information.

and means responsive to said receiving means for for establishing a jackpot value for a particular jackpot group based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win information associated with that particular group, said establishing means including further means capable of causing said establishing means to establish the contribution of a particular coin to the jackpot value at one of a plurality of levels depending upon the coins-in information corresponding to the particular coin.

14. An accumulator in accordance with claim 13
wherein:

said establishing means determines said jackpot value by adding to a base amount, for each particular coin indicated by the associated coins-in information, a further amount equal to one of a plurality of increments;

and said further means determines the increment to be used by said establishing means for each particular coin.

15. A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information, said accumulator comprising:

means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices,

means responsive to said receiving means for establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups based upon the coins-in information and jackpot information associated with the groups;

a jackpot stack having a plurality of positions each for storing jackpot-win information associated with one jackpot-win;

and means for clearing from said stack the jackpot-win information associated with a won jackpot

immediately and regardless of the location of the jackpot-win information in the stack, upon receipt from the gaming machine at which the jackpot has been won of a signal indicating that the jackpot has been cleared and for reshuffling the stack to move jackpot-win information in the stack to fill empty stack positions.

16. A progressive accumulator in accordance with claim 15 further comprising:

means for transmitting the jackpot values established by said establishing means to said gaming machines;

and means for inhibiting said transmitting to a gaming machine where a jackpot group has been won of the jackpot value being established by said establishing means for said jackpot group until the storage of the jackpot information of the won jackpot has been cleared from said stack.

17. A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in and jackpot-win information, said accumulator comprising:

means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices;

means responsive to said receiving means for

establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win information associated with the particular groups;

and programming means for controlling said accumulator, said programming means having main control loop programming and further programming carried out during interruption of said main loop programming, said main loop programming containing the programming for controlling said establishing means.

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18. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:
a plurality of gaming machines having associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines each developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information;

a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for determining said jackpot values comprising: a real time clock; and means responsive to jackpot-win information from the gaming machines and to said real time clock for tagging said jackpot-win information with a time and date.

19. A system in accordance with claim 18 wherein:
said accumulator further comprises means for storing said tagged jackpot-win information in a table.

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20. A system in accordance with claim 19 wherein:

said jackpot-win information includes the jackpot group and the identification of the gaming machine at which the win occurred;

and said table includes the jackpot value corresponding to each set of tagged jackpot-win information.

21. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:
a plurality of gaming machines having associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, each said gaming machine developing coins-in and jackpot-win information;

and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for developing said jackpot values comprising:
first means responsive to jackpot information and coins-in information developed by the machines for developing progressive jackpot amounts for said jackpot groups, said first means including programming means and data storage means; second means adapted to connect to an external device for allowing the external device to transmit messages to said first means for changing said first means, said messages including device identification and message type identification; and said first means in response to each of said messages storing the device identification and message type identification in said data storage means.

22. A system in accordance with claim 21 wherein:
said first means fails to respond to messages for

changing said first means unless the messages contain device identification.

23. A system in accordance with claim 22 wherein:
certain of said messages are for changing jackpot data in said storage means and for changing the configuration of said programming means.

24. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:
a plurality of gaming machines having associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, each said gaming machine developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information;

and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for developing said jackpot values comprising:
means for receiving said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information; and means responsive to said receiving means for establishing a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group based upon the received coins-in information and jackpot-win information allocated to that particular jackpot group, said means for establishing including means capable of allocating the coin-in information of a particular coin selectively to one or more jackpot groups.

25. A system in accordance with claim 24 wherein:
said means for establishing establishes a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group by adding a base jackpot amount to a further jackpot amount which is based upon the coins

indicated by the coins-in information allocated to the particular jack-pot group.

26. A system in accordance with claim 25 wherein:
said further jackpot amount is determined by adding an increment for each indicated coin.

27. A system in accordance with claim 26 wherein:
said means for establishing determines from the coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group which of a plurality of increments is to be used for each indicated coin.

28. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:
a plurality of gaming machines having associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, each said gaming machine developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information;

and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for developing said jackpot values comprising:
means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information; and means responsive to said receiving means for for establishing a jackpot value for a particular jackpot group based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win information associated with that particular group, said establishing means including further means capable causing said establishing means to establish the contribution of a particular coin to the

jackpot value at one of a plurality of levels depending upon the coins-in information corresponding to the particular coin.

29. A system in accordance with claim 28 wherein:

said establishing means determines said jackpot value by adding to a base amount, for each particular coin indicated by the associated coins-in information, a further amount equal to one of a plurality of increments;

and said further means determines the increment to be used by said establishing means for each particular coin.

30. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:

a plurality of gaming machines having associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, each said gaming machine developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information;

and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for developing said jackpot vlaues comprising: means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices; means responsive to said receiving means for establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups based upon the coins-in information and jackpot information associated with the groups; a jackpot stack having a plurality of positions each for storing jackpot-win information associated with one jackpot-win; and means for clearing from said stack the jackpot-win information associated with a won

jackpot immediately and regardless of the location of the jackpot-win information in the stack, upon receipt from the gaming machine at which the jackpot has been won of a signal indicating that the jackpot has been cleared and for reshuffling the stack to move jackpot-win information in the stack to fill empty stack positions.

31. A system in accordance with claim 30 wherein:
said accumulator further comprises: means for transmitting the jackpot values established by said establishing means to said gaming machines; and means for inhibiting said transmitting to a gaming machine where a jackpot group has been won of the jackpot value being established by said establishing means for said jackpot group until the storage of the jackpot information of the won jackpot has been cleared from said stack.

32. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:
a plurality of gaming machines having associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, each said gaming machine developing coins-in and jackpot-win information;
and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for developing said jackpot values comprising:
means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices; means responsive to said receiving means for establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win

information associated with the particular groups; and programming means for controlling said accumulator, said programming means having main control loop programming and further programming carried out during interruption of said main loop programming, said main loop programming containing the programming for controlling said establishing means.

Sub A8 33. A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information and jackpot win information; the method comprising:

developing said jackpot values for said gaming devices using said coins-in and jackpot-win information; and tagging said jackpot-win information from the gaming machines with a time and date.

34. The method in accordance with claim 33 further comprising:

storing said tagged jackpot-win information in a table.

Sub A9 35. The method in accordance with claim 34 wherein: said jackpot-win information includes one or more of the jackpot group and the identification of the gaming machine at which the win occurred; and said table includes the jackpot value

corresponding to each set of tagged jackpot-win information.

36. A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in and jackpot-win information, the method comprising:

using programming means and data storage means, developing progressive jackpot amounts for said jackpot groups from said jackpot-win information and coins-in information;

allowing an external device to transmit messages to said means for changing said means, said messages including device identification and message type identification;

and storing the device identification and message type identification in said messages in said data storage means.

37. A method in accordance with claim 36 wherein:

said developing step is unaffected by messages for changing said means unless the messages contain device identification.

38. An method in accordance with claim 37 wherein:

certain of said messages are for changing jackpot data in said storage means and for changing the configuration of said programming means.

39. A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated

jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information, said method comprising:

receiving said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information;

and establishing a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group based upon the received coins-in information and jackpot-win information allocated to that particular jackpot group, said establishing including allocating the coin-in information of a particular coin selectively to one or more jackpot groups.

40. A method in accordance with claim 39 wherein:

said establishing establishes a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group by adding a base jackpot amount to a further jackpot amount which is based upon the coins indicated by the coins-in information allocated to the particular jackpot group.

41. A method in accordance with claim 40 wherein:

said further jackpot amount is determined by adding an increment for each indicated coin.

42. A method in accordance with claim 41 wherein:

said establishing determines from the coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group which of a plurality of increments is to be used for each indicated coin.

43. A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information and jackpot-win information, said method comprising:

receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information.

and establishing a jackpot value for a particular jackpot group based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win information associated with that particular group, said establishing including further establishing the contribution of a particular coin to the jackpot value at one of a plurality of levels depending upon the coins-in information corresponding to the particular coin.

44. A method in accordance with claim 43 wherein:

said establishing determines said jackpot value by adding to a base amount, for each particular coin indicated by the associated coins-in information, a further amount equal to one of a plurality of increments.

45. A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information and jackpot-win

information, said method comprising:

receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices,

establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups base upon the coins-in information and jackpot information associated with the groups;

providing a jackpot stack having a plurality of positions each for storing jackpot-win information associated with one jackpot-win;

and clearing from said stack the jackpot-win information associated with a won jackpot immediately and regardless of the location of the jackpot-win information in the stack, upon receipt from the gaming machine at which the jackpot has been won of a signal indicating that the jackpot has been cleared and reshuffling the stack to move jackpot-win information in the stack to fill empty stack positions.

46. A method in accordance with claim 45 further comprising:

transmitting the established jackpot values to said gaming machines;

and inhibiting said transmitting to a gaming machine where a jackpot group has been won of the established jackpot value for said jackpot group until the storage of the jackpot information of the won jackpot has been cleared from said stack.

47. A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines have associated jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in and jackpot-win information, said method comprising:

receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices;

establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win information associated with the particular groups;

and controlling said establishing with programming means having main control loop programming and further programming carried out during interruption of said main loop programming, said main loop programming containing the programming for controlling said establishing.